

CAMBRIA IRON COMPANY, ROLLING MILL OFFICE
(Bethlehem Steel Company, Mechanical Department)
Cambria Iron Works
Lower Works
Johnstown
Cambria County
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-109-C

HAER
PA

11-JOT9
135C-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

CAMBRIA IRON COMPANY, ROLLING MILL OFFICE
(Bethlehem Steel Company, Mechanical Department)
Cambria Iron Works

HAER
PA
11-JOTO,
135C -

HAER No. PA-109-C

Location: Lower Works, Johnstown, Cambria
County, Pennsylvania

Quad: Johnstown, Pennsylvania

UTM: 17 E.676320 N.4466600

Date of Construction: ca. 1874

Fabricator: unknown

Present Owner: Bethlehem Steel Corporation

Present Use: Abandoned

Significance: The building has wrought-iron beam flooring, brick vaulting, an intersecting gable roof framed with wood rafters, and a stone foundation. It retains the stair tower featuring a wrought-iron spiral staircase; the original cupola has been removed. Original second-story windows are extant and feature Gothic arches of brick along the north facade.

Historian: Gray Fitzsimons

Project Information:

The results of the study of Cambria County were published in 1990: Fitzsimons, Gray, editor, Blair County and Cambria County, Pennsylvania: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites (Washington, D.C.: America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP) and HABS/HAER, National Park Service). The contents of the publication were transmitted to the Library of Congress as individual reports. Research notes, field photos and copies of historic photos collected during the project were transmitted to the AIHP Collection, Special Collections, Stapleton Library, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA 15705.

HISTORY

The Cambria Iron Company erected this two-and-one-half-story building about 1874 to serve as an office for its rolling mill operations. Throughout the years, the building served numerous functions: in 1911 it was listed as "Supplies Iron Company: Lower Works: "Supplies"; in 1917 it was noted as "Time Office and Supply House;" in 1930 it was called the "Stores Department Office and Dispensary;" and more recently it was called the "Mechanical Office." Originally it contained an intersecting gable roof covered with slate, windows with brick Gothic arches, and a wrought-iron spiral staircase topped by a wooden cupola. The cupola and stair tower measured 15' in diameter and nearly 70' in height. The floor and ceilings were constructed with vaulted brick-arches spanning between wrought-iron rails. Since the 1870s, a number of alterations have occurred including a three-story addition, constructed about 1900, and the removal of the cupola. Prior to its recent abandonment, the building served as the Mechanical Office.

SOURCES

Cambria Iron Company. "Rolling Mill Time Office; June 4, 1883," original drawing in the possession of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, Engineering Division, Johnstown.

_____. "Plan of Cellar in New Office; December 7, 1870," in the possession of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, Engineering Division, Johnstown.

"Key Plan, Johnstown Plants: February 16, 1923; revised January 26, 1927, March 29, 1930, and February 13, 1939," (copy available at the Canal Museum, Center for Canal History and Technology, Easton, PA).

Sanborn Map Company, Johnstown, Pennsylvania. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1891, 1911 and 1913.